

AGENDA

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE UTAH LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, September 16, 2009 • 9:00 a.m. • Room 30 House Building

Approximate
Time Frame

9:00 1. Committee Business

- Call to order
- Approval of the minutes of the August 19, 2009 meeting

9:05 2. Quality Growth Commission Annual Report

The Quality Growth Commission assists local governments with quality growth planning, advises the Legislature and the governor on growth management issues, and administers the LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Program, which provides grants for preserving or restoring open land and agricultural land. The Commission is also required to conduct an annual review to determine progress statewide on achieving quality growth and to give a report to the Political Subdivisions Interim Committee.

- John F. Bennett, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
- Flint Richards, Chair, Utah Quality Growth Commission

9:25 3. Clarity on "For and Against" Votes for a Referendum

During the 2009 General Session, the Legislature passed S.B. 27 "Election Law Changes," which included amendments to the way a referendum question is put to voters. A referendum is a process voters can use to have a law passed by the Legislature or by a local legislative body submitted to the voters for their approval or rejection. The power of the people to have a referendum is guaranteed by the Utah Constitution Art. VI sec. 1. The procedures for a referendum are provided in statute. Under Section 20A-7-309, "Voters desiring to vote in favor of preventing the law that is the subject of the referendum from taking effect shall mark the square adjacent to the word 'For' and those desiring to vote against preventing the law that is the subject of the referendum petition from taking effect shall mark the square adjacent to the word 'Against'." In the interest of clarity to voters, a committee review of this issue was requested. For example some may think a vote "For" should mean you are for the law taking effect instead of preventing it from taking effect. How should the Legislature respond to this issue? Is more clarity or more education needed?

9:50 4. Governor's Commission on Strengthening Utah's Democracy - Update

The Governor's Commission on Strengthening Utah's Democracy, which began meeting earlier this year, was asked by former Governor Huntsman to examine critical areas to Utah's democracy and report back to the governor and Utah citizenry regarding its findings, conclusions, and recommendations, including ethics laws (gift and conflict-of-interest laws and independent ethics commission), campaign finance laws, redistricting laws and procedures, lobbying regulations (disclosure and revolving door issues), and elections (caucus and convention system, open or closed primary, voter registration, and voting options). The chairs have asked the Commission for an update on their progress.

- Kirk L. Jowers, Hinckley Institute of Politics at the University of Utah

10:20 5. State Vehicle Fleet Operations Efficiency

The Division of Fleet Operations and Surplus Services provides motor vehicles for use by state agencies and administers a fuel dispensing services program for state and local government agencies. The division is also required to develop and coordinate the implementation of a statewide vehicle fleet cost-efficiency plan to ensure continuing progress toward statewide, overall cost reduction for government vehicles. How is the division responding to its mandate to provide efficiencies? How can the Legislature assist Fleet Operations in providing fleet efficiencies?

- Margaret E. Chambers, Division of Fleet Operations and Surplus Services, Department of Administrative Services

10:45 6. State Surplus Property Services - Briefing

In addition to its other duties, the Division of Fleet Operations and Surplus Services provides surplus property services on behalf of state and some local government agencies. The division is an internal service fund agency funded by the fees charged for services rendered. The fees are approved and accounted for as an internal service fund. The Annual State Appropriations Act authorizes the fee rates allowed to be charged based on the previous year's experience. Are adjustments needed to fee provisions or other procedures?

- Margaret E. Chambers, Division of Fleet Operations and Surplus Services, Department of Administrative Services

11:10 7. Other Items / Adjourn